CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing an entitled application screen in response to a presentation object's request to a database and its associated business rule objects, comprising the steps of:

    requesting at least a portion of an application screen from the database and business rule objects;

    identifying the application screen returned for display, wherein the application screen returned can be different than the one requested; and

    displaying the application screen using the presentation object.

2. A method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of identifying the application screen using a response table that contains display library.

3. A method as in claim 2, wherein the identifying step further comprises the step of formatting the application screen returned for display using the display library returned from the response table.

4. A method as in claim 1, wherein the identifying step further comprises the step of formatting the application screen returned for display.

5. A method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of identifying the application screen using an interpreter to identify the application screen returned and provides display formatting components.

6. A method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of linking the presentation object and the database and business rules object, via a request and response table.

7. A method of allowing a presentation object to request and display an entitled user screen from a database and business rules object, comprising the steps of:

requesting a user screen desired to be displayed, from the database and business rules object;

receiving a user screen response back from the database and business rules object, wherein the user screen response can be a different user screen than requested;

identifying the user screen response that has been returned; and

formatting the user screen response for display through the presentation object based on the identified user screen response.

8. A method as in claim 7, further comprising the step of identifying the user screen response using a response table that contains display formatting components.

9. A method as in claim 7, wherein the formatting step further comprises the step of formatting the user screen response returned for display using the display formatting components returned from the response table.

10. A system for allowing a software application to request and display an entitled user screen from a database and business rules object, comprising:

a presentation object that requests a user screen and data from the database and business rules object;

a response table to translate a response user screen from the database and business rules object and to provide display properties for the response user screen when a different user screen is returned than was originally requested;

a formatting object to format the user screen and combine it with requested data for display.

11. A system as in claim 10 wherein the presentation object is a networked content server.

12. A system as in claim 10 wherein the formatting object formats the user screens using a markup language.

13. A system for formatting screens and related data to be displayed to an end user from a computer application, wherein the screen entitled to be displayed is unknown before run time, comprising:

a request index template to receive a screen request from the computer application and retrieve a request template from a request table in order to format the screen request;

a business rules engine and database to fulfill screen requests by returning an entitled display screen and related data;

a request handler, coupled to the request index template, to receive the formatted screen request, to submit the screen request to the business rules engine and database, and then to receive an entitled display screen and related data;

a response table associated with the request handler, wherein the request handler matches the entitled display screen to the appropriate screen response template from the response table; and

a template assembler to assemble the entitled display screen based on the screen response template received from the request handler.

14. A system in accordance with claim 13 wherein the template assembler further comprises a caching template assembler to make a second request to the business rules engine and database for data which will be stored in a template caching unit.

15. A system in accordance with claim 13 wherein the screen request is for a web page.

16. A system in accordance with claim 13 wherein the request index template, the request and response tables, and the request handler are located within a presentation content server.

17. A method for providing a screen for a computer application to be displayed to a user, wherein the screen entitled to be displayed to the user is unknown before run-time, comprising the steps of:

receiving a screen request from the computer application;

retrieving the request template corresponding to the screen request using a request index template;

preparing a screen request query based on the request template;

submitting the screen request query to a business rules object and database;

returning an entitled screen and associated data from the business rules object and database in response to the screen request query;

identifying the response template for the entitled screen that was returned; and

assembling the response template for the entitled screen.

18. A method as in claim 17, further comprising the step of displaying the entitled screen by combining data from the database and formatting from components loaded with the response template.

19. A method as in claim 17, further comprising the step of storing the computer application on a content and presentation server.

20. A method as in claim 17, further comprising the step of making a second request to the business rules object and database to obtain data for the entitled screen and caching the data from the second request.